



# Widener University

Master of Arts in Criminal Justice  
2018 Graduate Catalog

# Widener University Information

## UNIVERSITY POLICY

It is the policy of Widener University not to discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, pregnancy status, age, race, national origin or ethnicity, religion, disability, status as a veteran of the Vietnam era or other covered veteran, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or genetic information in its educational programs, admissions policies, employment practices, financial aid, or other school-administered programs or activities. This policy is enforced under various federal and state laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Further, in compliance with state and federal laws, Widener University will provide the following information upon request: (a) copies of documents pertinent to the university's accreditations, approvals, or licensing by external agencies or governmental bodies; (b) reports on crime statistics and information on safety policies and procedures; and (c) information regarding gender equity relative to intercollegiate athletic programs—Contact: Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance, Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; tel. 610-499-4151. Comments or requests for information regarding services and resources for disabled students should be directed to: Director of Disability Services, Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; tel. 610-499-1266; or Dean of Students, Widener University Delaware Law School, P.O. Box 7474, Wilmington, DE 19803; tel. 302-477-2173.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") prohibits discrimination based on sex and gender in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Such programs include recruitment, admissions, financial aid and scholarships, athletics, course offerings and access, hiring and retention, and benefits and leave. Title IX also protects students and employees from unlawful sexual harassment (including sexual violence) in university programs and activities. In compliance with Title IX, the university prohibits discrimination and harassment based on sex in employment as well as in all programs and activities.

The university's Title IX coordinator monitors compliance with Title IX and its accompanying regulations. Individuals with questions or concerns about Title IX and/or those who wish to file a complaint of non-compliance may contact the Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators: The university's Title IX coordinator is Director of Employee Relations Alison Kiss Dougherty, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; tel. 610-499-1301; e-mail [akdougherty@widener.edu](mailto:akdougherty@widener.edu). The university has also appointed several deputy Title IX coordinators: For students on the Chester, PA, campus and Extended Learning students: Assistant Dean for Student Development and Engagement Catherine Feminella, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; tel. 610-499-4392; e-mail [cafeminella@widener.edu](mailto:cafeminella@widener.edu); or Chief of Campus Safety Kevin Raport, tel. 302-477-2202; e-mail [kjraport@widener.edu](mailto:kjraport@widener.edu). For students and employees on the Wilmington, DE, campus: Dean of Students Susan Goldberg, Widener University Delaware Law School, 4601 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803; tel. 302-477-2173; e-mail [slgoldberg@widener.edu](mailto:slgoldberg@widener.edu). For students and employees on the Harrisburg, PA, campus: Supervising Attorney and Director, of Student Organizations Mary Catherine Scott, Widener University Commonwealth Law School, 3800 Vartan Way, Harrisburg, PA 17106; tel. 717-541-0320; e-mail [mescott9055@widener.edu](mailto:mescott9055@widener.edu).

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is the division of the federal government charged with enforcing compliance with Title IX. Information regarding OCR can be found at: [www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html). Questions about Title IX may be directed to OCR as well as to the university's Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators.

This publication contains information, policies, procedures, regulations, and requirements that were correct at the time of publication. In keeping with the educational mission of the university, the information, policies, procedures, regulations, and requirements contained herein are continually being reviewed, changed, and updated. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and must be used solely as an informational guide. Students are responsible for keeping informed of official policies and meeting all relevant requirements.

The university reserves the right and authority at any time to alter any or all of the statements contained herein, to modify the requirements for admission and graduation, to change or discontinue programs of study, to amend any regulation or policy affecting the student body, to increase tuition and fees, to deny admission, to revoke an offer of admission, and to dismiss from the university any student at any time, if it is deemed by the university to be in the best interest of the university, the university community, or the student to do so. The provisions of this publication are subject to change without notice, and nothing in this publication may be considered as setting forth terms of a contract between a student or a prospective student and Widener University.

## ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

**Widener University is a member of the Association for Continuing Higher Education and is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.**

Widener University's graduate programs are additionally accredited by the following: AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (School of Business Administration), American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (Center for Human Sexuality Studies), American Bar Association (School of Law), American Psychological Association (Doctor of Psychology; Clinical Psychology Internship), Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Management Education (MBA in Healthcare Management), Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (Doctor of Physical Therapy), Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (School of Nursing), Commission on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of Delaware (Delaware Law School), Council on Social Work Education (Center for Social Work Education), National Association for Education of Young Children (Child Development Center), National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Educators (Center for Education), Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing (School of Nursing), Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board of the Supreme Court (Commonwealth Law School), Pennsylvania Department of Education (Center for Education), Pennsylvania Department of Welfare (Child Development Center), Pennsylvania Private School Board (Center for Education).

Widener University's graduate programs hold membership in the following: Academic Council of the American Physical Therapy Association (Institute for Physical Therapy Education), American Society for Engineering Education (School of Engineering), Association of Engineering Colleges of Pennsylvania (School of Engineering), Association of American Law Schools (Delaware Law School and Commonwealth Law School), Greater Philadelphia Engineering Deans Economic Development Council (School of Engineering), Engineering Deans Institute (School of Engineering), Engineering Research Council of the American Association of Engineering Societies (School of Engineering), Engineering Workforce Commission (School of Engineering), National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (Master of Public Administration), National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (Delaware Law School and Commonwealth Law School), National Council for Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology (Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology), National League for Nursing and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (School of Nursing).

# Master of Arts in Criminal Justice 2018 Graduate Catalog

## GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTORY

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## GENERAL DIRECTORY

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**INFORMATION LINE**

610-499-4600

**BOOKSTORES**

Main Campus, 610-490-7012

Delaware Campus, 302-478-0606

Harrisburg Campus, 717-541-3905

**BUSINESS OFFICES**

Main Campus, 610-499-4150

Delaware Campus, 302-477-2207

Harrisburg Campus, 717-541-3905

**CAMPUS SAFETY**

Main Campus, 610-499-4201

Delaware Campus, 302-477-2200

Harrisburg Campus, 717-541-3948

**FINANCIAL AID**

Main Campus, 610-499-4174

Delaware Campus, 302-478-2209

Harrisburg Campus, 717-541-3961

**LIBRARIES**

Main Campus, 610-499-4066

Delaware Campus, 302-477-2244

Harrisburg Campus, 717-541-3926

**REGISTRAR**

Main Campus, 610-499-4142

Delaware Campus, 302-477-2009

Harrisburg Campus, 717-541-3904

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# College of Arts & Sciences Information

## MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY OF THE PROGRAMS

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The graduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences are built on strong undergraduate programs. The college offers 25 undergraduate majors and 25 minors in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. The college has 88 full-time faculty members chosen for their demonstrated skills in teaching.

Faculty who are asked to teach in the college's graduate programs have a commitment to excellent teaching. The college's faculty are also extensively involved in research and scholarship, which are brought to bear in the classroom. Because our graduate classes are small in size and taught in a seminar format, students are able to get to know the faculty and their scholarly interests.

## STUDENT STATUS

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Students pursuing a course of studies in the College of Arts and Sciences are considered to be full-time graduate students when they are enrolled in 9 or more hours of graduate study. It is recommended that students take no more than 12 semester hours of graduate study. Students in these programs who enroll in at least 5 semester hours of graduate study are considered to be half-time students.

## COURSE OFFERINGS

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Graduate studies brochures are published for the fall and spring semesters and summer sessions. These fully describe registration policies, course schedules, and tuition and fee obligations. To obtain a graduate studies brochure, contact the appropriate graduate program office listed in the directory.

**DROP/ADD POLICY**—Students taking a course in the College of Arts and Sciences may withdraw from the course at any time prior to the final examination and receive the grade of W. If a course does not include a final examination, the deadline for withdrawing from the course with a grade of W is the final class meeting for the course. Graduate students begin the withdrawal process by notifying their program director's office of their intent to withdraw, either orally or in writing. The program director's office submits a drop/add form, which includes the student's last date of attendance at an academically related activity, to the Registrar's Office.

Students may add a course without special permission no later than one week after the semester has begun. If a student wishes to add a course after one week, written permission must be obtained from both the instructor and the appropriate department head.

**AUDITING**—Students will be permitted to audit courses with the approval of both the director and the instructor. No grade or credit is given for auditing a course, and examinations need not be taken; however, the registration procedure and fee structure are the same as those for other students.

## GRADING

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The following grades (and their associated grade points) are used:

A	(4.0)	I	(Incomplete)
A-	(3.7)	W	(Withdrawn)
B+	(3.3)	P/NP	(Passed/Not Passed)*
B	(3.0)	AU	(Audit: No credit)
B-	(2.7)		
C+	(2.3)		
C	(2.0)		
F	(0.0)		

\*Only for courses offered on a Pass/Fail basis.

Note: Individual instructors may elect, at their discretion, not to use plus/minus grades.

The grade of I is given when a student has not completed course requirements because of excusable reasons. A student who receives a grade of incomplete must arrange to make up all deficiencies with the instructor issuing the grade. If the work is not made up within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which the incomplete is received, the grade will be automatically converted to F, unless the course in question is a thesis research course or a dissertation research course. Upon completion of the requirements, the instructor will institute a change of grade. (Note: a student does not register again for a course in which the grade of incomplete has been received.) A student cannot be awarded a degree when there is an outstanding incomplete grade on the transcript, even if the incomplete is in a course not required in the degree program.

If a course is repeated, both grades will be recorded on the transcript, but only the most recent grade will be used in calculating the grade point average (GPA). When a student is found to have violated Widener's academic fraud policies, that student is prohibited from exercising the repeat-of-course option to remove the F grade (given as a result of fraud) from the GPA calculation.

If a student fails to meet the degree requirements in a timely manner or if repeated failure has occurred, the college may terminate the graduate program for the student.

Conduct inconsistent with the ethical and professional standards of the discipline, whether it occurs before or after matriculation, is also grounds for dismissal from the program. Such conduct includes academic fraud. A student dismissed for academic fraud may no longer enroll in the graduate programs of the university and may not apply for admission into another division of the university. Please see the section entitled "Standards for Academic Integrity."

## DISMISSAL AND READMISSION

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A student will be dismissed from the program when his or her cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 and/or he or she receives a grade of C+ or below in a second course. Any student who receives a failing grade for any course is also dismissed from the program. After a semester out of the program, the student may petition the program director for readmission. The student will be readmitted only when the director is satisfied that the poor academic performance will not recur.

## **STANDARDS FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

The Academic Integrity Policy was approved by the Faculty Council. Additional regulations are excerpted and paraphrased from the “Minutes of the Academic Council.” These regulations explain Widener University’s expectations regarding students’ academic conduct and describe procedures related to those expectations. Exceptions to the regulations may be made only by special action of the school/college academic councils of the Academic Review Board. References in this catalog refer to the Main Campus only.

### **STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Widener University strongly supports the concept of academic integrity and expects students and all other members of the Widener University community to be honest in all academic endeavors. Cheating, plagiarism, and all other forms of academic fraud are unacceptable; they are serious violations of university policy. In some circumstances, students’ conduct may require review under the research integrity policy, the freedom to learn policy, the judicial review policy, and other university policies. Widener University expects all students to be familiar with university policies on academic integrity, as outlined in this catalog. The university will not accept a claim of ignorance—either of the policy itself or of what constitutes academic fraud—as a valid defense against such a charge.

### **VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Violations of academic integrity constitute academic fraud. Academic fraud consists of any action that serves to undermine the integrity of the academic process or that gives the student an unfair advantage, including:

- inspecting, duplicating or distributing test materials without authorization.
- cheating, attempting to cheat, or assisting others to cheat.
- altering work after it has been submitted for a grade.
- plagiarizing.
- using or attempting to use anything that constitutes unauthorized assistance.
- fabricating, falsifying, distorting, or inventing any information, documentation, or citation.

Each student’s program may have on record additional specific acts particular to a discipline that constitutes academic fraud. These specific acts are specified in relevant handbooks or course syllabi.

### **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM**

One of the most common violations of academic integrity is plagiarism. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. However, since each student is responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism, unintentional plagiarism is as unacceptable as intentional plagiarism and commission of it will bring the same penalties. In many classes, faculty members will provide their definitions of plagiarism. In classes where a definition is not provided, students will be held to the definition of plagiarism that follows:

#### **Definition of Plagiarism**

Plagiarism—submitting the work of others as one’s own—is a serious offense. In the academic world, plagiarism is theft. Information from sources—whether quoted, paraphrased, or summarized—must be given credit through specific citations. When a student paraphrases a work, it is still necessary to cite the original source. Merely rearranging a sentence or changing a few words is not sufficient. The citation style should be appropriate for the discipline and should clearly indicate the beginning and ending of the referenced material. All sources used in the preparation of an academic paper must also be listed with full bibliographic details at the end of the paper, as appropriate in the discipline.

## **FACULTY AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Every student, faculty member, and administrator is responsible for upholding the highest standards of academic integrity. Every member of the Widener community shall honor the spirit of this policy by refusing to tolerate academic fraud.
- When expectations for a course are not addressed in this policy, it is the responsibility of the instructor to provide students with additional guidelines for what constitutes “authorized” and “unauthorized” assistance.
- It is the responsibility of every student to seek clarification if in doubt about what constitutes “authorized” and “unauthorized” assistance. In cases of collaborative work, all students within the collaborative group may be responsible for “unauthorized” assistance to any individual student within the collaborative group.
- Students are required to obtain permission prior to submitting work, any part of which was previously or will be submitted in another course. The instructor has the option of accepting, rejecting, or requiring modification of the content of previously or simultaneously submitted work.

A student who suspects that a violation of academic integrity has occurred should report that violation to the associate provost or their dean. In this report, the student should describe any action taken, such as talking with the person involved or with a faculty or staff member. Every effort will be made to preserve the anonymity of the student reporting the incident; however, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

### **RESOLUTION AT THE FACULTY/STUDENT LEVEL FOR ACADEMIC FRAUD OCCURRING IN A COURSE**

#### **Process and Reporting**

A faculty member who becomes aware of possible academic fraud in a course will:

1. Collect and preserve all evidence of the suspected fraud.
2. Inform the suspected student(s) in writing. The faculty member may contact the associate provost for additional support and guidance.
3. Provide the student with the opportunity to respond to the charges within five business days of his/her receipt of, or refusal to accept, notice of the suspected fraud. If the student fails to respond to this opportunity, the student forfeits any right to appeal the decision to the school or college level where the course is taught, and the faculty member will determine the penalty.
4. Discuss the academic fraud with the student and agree to pursue student/faculty resolution. If no such agreement is reached, the faculty member refers the matter to the dean of the school or college level where the course is taught and will be processed at the school/college level.
5. In cases where a faculty member takes action for a case of academic fraud, the faculty member will send a report describing the academic fraud and the penalty being imposed to the student, the dean of the school or college where the course involved is taught, the dean of the school or college where the student is enrolled, and the Office of the Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Extended Learning as the office of record. Please contact the associate provost for guidelines and templates for constructing the reports.

If the faculty member is not satisfied with the sanctions available, he or she may refer the case to the dean responsible for the course in question.

If the student does not accept responsibility for the academic fraud or disagrees with the sanction imposed by the faculty member, the student may appeal the outcome at the school or college level according to the process stipulated in the bylaws or student handbook of the school or college where the course is taught.

## Penalties

The suggested penalty for academic fraud in any course is failure in the course. However, faculty members may take alternative steps. Penalties available to faculty members include:

- Formal warning.
- Reduction in grade for the assignment.
- Reduction in the grade for the course.
- Failing grade for the assignment.
- A failing grade (F) in the course.
- A failing grade (XF) in the course (a grade of XF will appear on the transcript and be defined on the transcript as failure as a result of academic fraud).

## Offenses Subject to Expulsion

All reports of academic fraud will be reviewed by the associate provost to verify whether reports have been received indicating that the student has been found responsible for any other act of academic fraud. In cases where the associate provost finds that the case is a repeat offense for which the student has received a failing grade (F or XF) in a course for each offense or a case in which a student has stolen or attempted to steal an examination, the associate provost will expel the student from the university. The student may appeal cases resulting in expulsion to the Academic Review Board.

## RESOLUTION AT THE SCHOOL/COLLEGE LEVEL

### Process and Reporting

When a faculty member or any other employee of the university becomes aware of possible academic fraud occurring outside a course, the faculty member or employee will:

1. Collect and preserve all evidence of the suspected fraud.
2. Refer the matter to the dean of the school or college where the student is enrolled.

When a case of academic fraud occurring in a course is referred to the dean of the school or college where the course is taught or when a case of academic fraud occurring outside a course is referred to the dean of the school or college where the student is enrolled:

1. The dean will notify the student and the associate provost in writing of the charge of academic fraud, the penalty to be imposed, and all rights of appeal, if any.
2. If a student wishes to contest the charge of academic fraud or disagrees with the sanction imposed, the student may do so according to the process stipulated in the bylaws or student handbook of the school or college where the course is taught. In such a case, the student will also be informed of the process as stipulated by the school or college.
3. In cases where the penalty results in dismissal of the student from the school or college, the student may appeal the decision at the university level in writing to the Academic Review Board via the associate provost.

## Penalties

The maximum penalty imposed in school or college resolution for individuals convicted of academic fraud shall be dismissal from the school or college. Lesser penalties may include:

- Formal warning.
- Reduction in grade for the assignment.
- Reduction in the grade for the course.
- Failing grade for the assignment.
- Failing grade (F) in the course.
- A failing grade (XF) in the course (a grade of XF will appear on the transcript and be defined on the transcript as failure as a result of academic fraud).
- Required attendance at an academic integrity workshop or tutorial.

## Offenses Subject to Expulsion

All reports of academic fraud will be reviewed by the associate provost to verify whether reports have been received indicating

that the student has been found responsible for any other act of academic fraud. In cases where the associate provost finds that the case is a repeat offense where the student has received a failing grade (F or XF) in a course for each offense or a case where a student has stolen or attempted to steal an examination, the associate provost will expel the student from the university. The student may appeal cases resulting in expulsion to the Academic Review Board.

## RESOLUTION AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL— REPEAT OFFENSES / THEFT OF EXAMINATION MATERIALS

### Process

The associate provost will review all reports of academic fraud.

1. If the associate provost finds the case is a repeat offense where the student has received a failing grade (F or XF) in a course for each offense, the associate provost will expel the student from the university. The student may appeal the case to the Academic Review Board.
2. If the associate provost finds the case is a repeat offense where the student has not received a failing grade for both offenses, the case will be referred to the Academic Review Board.
3. If the student has stolen or attempted to steal an examination, the associate provost will expel the student from the university. The student may appeal the case to the Academic Review Board.

## Penalties

The maximum penalty imposed by the Academic Review Board for individuals convicted of academic fraud shall be expulsion from the university. Penalties include:

- An XF grade in the course (a grade of XF will appear on the transcript and be defined on the transcript as failure as a result of academic fraud).
- Removal of the privilege of representing the university in extracurricular activities, including athletics, as well as the privilege of running for or holding office in any student organization that is allowed to use university facilities or receives university funds.
- Suspension from the university for up to one academic year. Students suspended for academic fraud cannot transfer into Widener any credits earned during the suspension.
- Dismissal from the university. Students dismissed for academic fraud must apply for readmission according to the Academic Review Board guidelines. Readmission applications by students suspended for academic fraud must be approved by the Academic Review Board.
- Expulsion from the university without the opportunity for readmission.

## Reporting

The associate provost will send a report describing the academic fraud and the penalty being imposed to the student, the affected faculty members, the dean of the school or college where the course involved is taught, and the dean of the school or college where the student is enrolled, as well as maintain a copy as the office of record.

## STUDENT APPEALS/DECISIONS— EXPULSION/DISMISSAL

When a student is expelled or dismissed by the associate provost, the student may initiate his or her appeal to the Academic Review Board by notifying the associate provost in writing of the request for an appeal, together with a concise statement of the grounds for the appeal.

Written notice of the student's request for appeal, together with the concise statement of the student's grounds for the appeal, must be received by the associate provost no more than ten business days following the decision of the faculty, school/college, or university.

When a case is referred to the Academic Review Board, the associate provost shall notify the student in writing of the time and location for the Academic Review Board hearing.

The membership of the Academic Review Board consists of the provost, the associate provost, the dean, the chair of the faculty, and the chair of the Faculty Council Academic Affairs Committee; provided, however, that any majority of the foregoing members shall constitute a quorum for purposes of conducting any matters to come before the Academic Review Board pursuant to these standards. Any faculty member on the Academic Review Board involved in the original accusations will not participate in deliberations in that case.

At an appeal before the Academic Review Board, the student shall have the opportunity to be heard and the right to produce witnesses or introduce evidence subject to the reasonable discretion of the Academic Review Board. The student may also be accompanied by a representative of his or her choosing who may not participate in the appeal. The Academic Review Board shall not be subject to any evidentiary rules but shall accept or reject evidence in its sound discretion. All appeals shall be closed to the public and no stenographic record shall be required unless requested at the expense of the requesting party. In the absence of a stenographic record, the Academic Review Board shall provide, in its sole discretion, either a recorded record or notes of the proceedings taken by a member of the Academic Review Board.

The results of all appeals to the Academic Review Board, permitted in the Academic Integrity Policy, shall be final.

Any matter submitted to a faculty member, the school/college, or the university for decision or review under this policy will be decided in a timely manner and the parties will use their best efforts to conclude the proceedings within the semester in which the alleged offense has occurred or the appeal is received, provided, however, that any delay in the proceedings will in no way operate as a waiver of the university's right to assess any or all of the sanctions permitted hereunder. References to the associate provost also includes his/her designee, except with respect to membership on the Academic Review Board.

### **ACADEMIC REVIEW BOARD**

The Academic Review Board consists of the provost, the associate provost, the deans of each school/college, the vice chair of the University Council, and the chair of the University Council Academic Affairs Committee. Duties of the board include (1) hearing petitions for the waiver of academic regulations that transcend a single school or college (e.g., distribution or residency requirements, walk-through policy), and (2) serving as the appeal body in cases of an alleged violation of procedure in school/college Academic Council hearings.

### **ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE APPEAL PROCEDURE**

If a student has a grievance concerning a class in which he or she is enrolled, he/she will first try to resolve the problem with the instructor of the class. If a student has a grievance concerning an academic requirement of the program (e.g., comprehensive examination, final clinical oral examination, clinical placements), he/she will first try to resolve the problem with the director of the program. If it is impossible to resolve the matter at this initial level, the grievance must be placed in writing. Then the student may appeal to the next higher level. The student should inquire in the office of the dean responsible for the course or program in question for the proper appeal procedure if the student's grievance is not resolved to the student's satisfaction after initial appeal to the instructor or the program director.

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND AWARDING OF DEGREES**

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Students are responsible for knowing and meeting curriculum requirements as shown in this catalog.

Those who expect to receive a graduate degree should make clear their intentions to their advisors. A student who completes requirements for the degree at the conclusion of either summer session will be awarded the degree in August of that year; **the student must submit a graduation petition online via CampusCruiser by March 1.** A student who completes requirements for the degree at the conclusion of the fall semester will be awarded the degree in December of that year; **the student must submit a graduation petition online via CampusCruiser by July 1.** A student who completes requirements for the degree at the conclusion of the spring semester will be awarded the degree in May of that year; **the student must submit a graduation petition online via CampusCruiser by November 1 of the previous year.** The university holds only one formal commencement in the spring to which August, December, and May graduates are invited.

## **ANNUAL NOTICE TO STUDENTS REGARDING EDUCATION RECORDS**

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The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records. (An "eligible student" under FERPA is a student who is 18 years of age or older or who attends a postsecondary institution.) These rights include:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the university receives a request for access. A student should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The university official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the university official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

A student who wishes to ask the university to amend a record should write the university official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed.

If the university decides not to amend the record as requested, the university will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- The right to provide written consent before the university discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The university discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to university officials with legitimate educational

interests. A university official is a person employed by the university in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including, without limitation, law enforcement unit personnel, health staff, athletic coaches and trainers, and admissions counselors and recruiters); a person serving on the board of trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. A university official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the university who performs an institutional service or function for which the university would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the university with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, contractor, consultant, or collection agent, or a student volunteering to assist another university official in performing his or her tasks. A university official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the university.

Upon request, the university also discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Such education records may include updated or corrected information, including, without limitation, disciplinary and health records.

- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the university to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:  
Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202
- The right to withhold public disclosure of any or all items of “directory information” by written notification to the Registrar’s Office of the university or the School of Law, as applicable, within two weeks after the commencement of the fall or spring semesters of any given academic year. Under current university policy, the term “directory information” includes, without limitation, a student’s name, home and campus address, telephone listing(s), electronic mail address, photographs, major field of study, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate, full-time or part-time), dates of attendance, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

## **TRANSCRIPTS**

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Students in good financial standing may have copies of their transcripts forwarded to employers, agents, or institutions of higher education by contacting the Office of the Registrar.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

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Widener University offers a wide range of financial aid programs. Financial information is available on the university’s website at [www.widener.edu/admissions/graduate/financial\\_aid](http://www.widener.edu/admissions/graduate/financial_aid).

## **CAMPUS SAFETY**

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### **CAMPUS SECURITY AND FIRE SAFETY REPORTS**

Widener is committed to the safety and security of all members of the Widener University community. The university’s annual Campus Safety and Fire Safety Reports are on the Widener website and contain information on campus security and personal safety, including crime prevention, university law enforcement authority, crime reporting policies, disciplinary procedures, and other campus security matters. The Campus Safety Reports contain statistics for the three previous calendar years on reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings and property owned and controlled by the university, and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from campus.

The Fire Safety Report contains information on fire safety systems in on-campus student housing facilities, the number of fire drills held during the previous year, the university’s policies on portable electrical appliances, smoking, and open flames in student housing facilities, the university’s procedures for student housing evacuation in the case of a fire, policies regarding fire safety education and training programs provided to students and employees, a listing of persons or organizations to which fires should be reported, and plans for future improvements in fire safety. It also contains statistics for the three most recent calendar years concerning the number of fires and cause of each fire in each on-campus student housing facility, the number of persons who received fire-related injuries that resulted in treatment at a medical facility, the number of deaths related to a fire, and the value of property damage caused by a fire.

The annual Campus Safety and Fire Safety Reports are available online at [www.widener.edu/campussafety](http://www.widener.edu/campussafety). If you would like a printed copy of these reports, contact the Campus Safety Office at 610-499-4203 to have a copy mailed to you. The information in these reports is required by law and is provided by the Campus Safety Office.



# Master of Arts in Criminal Justice

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### GOALS

The Master of Arts in Criminal Justice program is designed to prepare individuals for successful careers in research, management, and leadership in the criminal justice professions. The master's degree curriculum provides intensive study in the areas of criminological theory, research methodology and data analysis, and organizational functioning.

The program is designed to encourage the development of effective, analytical, and problem-solving skills that will equip professionals with the intellectual capital needed to propose meaningful solutions to the criminal justice issues of contemporary society. The program includes a core curriculum that emphasizes criminological theory, the relation of law to the criminal justice system, research and data analysis, and criminal justice organizations. Students tailor the remainder of the degree to their needs and interests by choosing electives from Widener's extensive offerings. For the capstone requirement, students choose either the master's thesis option or comprehensive examination option.

Classes are small and taught in a seminar format. Widener's criminal justice instructors include full-time faculty and practitioners in the criminal justice system.

### ADMISSIONS

An applicant for admission to the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice (MACJ) program must have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. Candidates are considered for admission after having submitted:

- A completed application form.
- Two letters of recommendation.
- Transcripts from all previously attended institutions.
- A statement describing reasons and expectations for study in the program.

The decision to admit an applicant to the MACJ program is based primarily on the applicant's undergraduate/graduate grade point average (minimum 3.00 GPA required), letters of recommendation, and the applicant's personal statement. A limited number of other factors may be considered, including quality of undergraduate program, undergraduate major, relevant work experience, research reports, publications, project reports, presentations, and other work demonstrating the ability to successfully pursue graduate studies. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required, but scores may be submitted in support of the application.

Applicants with undergraduate degrees in disciplines other than criminal justice will have their curricula evaluated by the graduate criminal justice advisor to ensure the proper academic preparation to successfully pursue a graduate degree in the field. Deficits in undergraduate criminal justice preparedness may require the taking of additional courses. Such decisions are made on an individual basis in consultation with the applicant.

Guaranteed admission is extended to those Widener students who complete their undergraduate education with an overall GPA of 3.5 or better.

All inquiries should be addressed to:

Criminal Justice Graduate Program Director  
Widener University  
One University Place  
Chester, PA 19013  
e-mail: [slmaier@widener.edu](mailto:slmaier@widener.edu)

Submissions should be addressed to:

Office of Graduate Enrollment Management  
Widener University  
One University Place  
Chester, PA 19013  
e-mail: [gradprograms@widener.edu](mailto:gradprograms@widener.edu)

### TRANSFER CREDITS

Students who apply for admission to the MACJ program may transfer a maximum of 6 semester hours of previous graduate course work. To be accepted for transfer credit, graduate course work must be recent (within 5 calendar years), indicate a high degree of scholarship (a grade of A or B), and conform to the curricular philosophy of the program. Transfer credits will not be accepted for core courses—only for graduate electives. Transfer credit requests must be made at the initial application stage. Students wishing to receive such credit must petition the MACJ graduate program director in writing and must submit official transcripts and course descriptions from the graduate institutions at which the course work was completed.

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students should consult the International Student Services web page at [www.widener.edu](http://www.widener.edu) for international graduate student guidelines or contact the Office of International Student Services at Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; phone: 610-499-4499.

### STUDENT STATUS

**Matriculating**—A student who meets all entrance requirements and is working in a program toward a graduate degree is said to be matriculated.

**Auditing**—Students are permitted to audit courses with the approval of both the director and the instructor. No grade or credit is given. Full tuition and fees for the course must be paid.

**Visiting**—Students who do not wish to pursue the formal degree but who do want to complete courses offered in the program are considered nonmatriculated. All course requirements must be completed and a grade received. A change in status to degree candidate will be considered after having submitted a written request and required admission documentation to the director of the program.

### NORMAL PROGRESS

Students are expected to make continuing progress toward the completion of their graduate education. Under ordinary circumstances "normal progress" is defined as follows. Students are expected to complete the master's degree no later than their third year in the program. The department also considers headway on the thesis, number of credits accumulated, and failure to complete course work in a timely fashion in defining progress. Students who fail to make normal progress may be dismissed from the program.

Students who have not completed all necessary MACJ degree requirements, including successfully passing the comprehensive examinations or successful completion of the master's thesis, may not "walk" or otherwise participate in graduation ceremonies. Students are strongly encouraged to take core courses when they are offered.

### **STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

The statute of limitations adopted by the MACJ faculty for the master's degree is five years. Students must complete the MACJ degree requirements within five years of being accepted into the program. Exceeding this limit will result in dismissal from the program. Requests for extensions must be made in writing by the student and approved by the MACJ director.

### **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for the degree of Master of Arts in Criminal Justice, the candidate must:

1. Comply with all general requirements of Widener University relating to the governance of graduate programs.
2. Satisfactorily complete 30 semester hours of approved course work in the criminal justice program as follows:
  - a. Four core courses (12 semester hours)
    - CJ 501, Nature of Crime & Delinquency
    - CJ 504, Seminar in Law & Criminal Justice
    - CJ 505, Organizational Behavior in Criminal Justice
    - CJ 509, Research Methods & Quantitative Applications in Criminal Justice
  - b. Completion of one of the following options
    - Master's Thesis Option
      - Four graduate electives (12 semester hours), two of which must be graduate criminal justice (CJ prefix) electives.
      - CJ 699, Master's Thesis (6 semester hours).
    - Comprehensive Examination Option
      - Six graduate electives (18 semester hours), three of which must be graduate CJ electives.
      - Written comprehensive examinations.

The graduate criminal justice advisor oversees the selection and distribution of courses for all students in the program. Regardless of the option selected, students must obtain the approval of the advisor before taking courses in other programs.

### **THE MASTER'S THESIS**

The master's thesis is an empirical research project supervised by a full-time faculty member in the program. The thesis is in the form of a scholarly journal article. With advice of the thesis advisor, each student selects a journal most appropriate to his/her area of interest, conducts the required research, and prepares a manuscript at the level required for publication in the selected journal.

Each thesis adheres to the particular journal's page limits, bibliographic format, manner of data presentation, and so on. Where appropriate, students are encouraged to develop their thesis from research conducted from their course work or from pre-existing databases.

The student must complete the thesis proposal within one year of completion of course work and then must complete the thesis within one year of approval of the proposal.

It is the responsibility of the student to select a thesis advisor from the MACJ full-time faculty.

Successful candidates must provide two copies of the completed thesis to the MACJ director.

### **THESIS PROPOSAL PROCEDURE**

Upon obtaining the written consent of the faculty advisor, the student notifies the MACJ director by memo of the selection of the faculty member and the start date of the thesis process. The student must complete the proposal within one year of completion of course work. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program.

Upon approval of the MACJ thesis proposal by the faculty advisor, the student provides one copy for the department's file (approved and signed by the advisor). The faculty advisor shall notify the members of the faculty by memo of the existence of the signed proposal as well as the proposed thesis title.

### **FORMAT AND SCOPE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS**

Candidates for the master's degree must complete all their course work requirements prior to taking the master's comprehensive exams. Petitions to sit for master's examinations must be submitted to the MACJ director at least 60 days prior to the scheduled examination period. The petition must provide confirmation that all course requirements have been satisfied.

The format of all comprehensive examinations is as follows: The exams are written and administered on-campus with a maximum 3-hour per area time allotment. No more than one exam can be scheduled per day; no exams are scheduled on consecutive days.

Successful completion requires passing each of the three master's examinations.

The examinations are in theory, research methods, and one additional area of specialization chosen by the student and based on courses offered in the program. The examination in theory covers the course content of CJ 501 and a reading list provided by the faculty. The examination in research methods covers the course content of CJ 509 and a reading list provided by the faculty. MACJ faculty are responsible for providing reading lists and for constructing and evaluating examination questions in the specialization/additional areas. Reading lists should be requested by the student at least one semester prior to the scheduled examinations.

### **GRADING**

Possible outcomes are pass, fail, or conditional pass. It is the responsibility of the respective faculty member(s) evaluating the examinations to notify the MACJ program director, in writing and within two weeks, of the results of the evaluation. If the student is deemed to have failed the exam, the faculty member includes the reasons for the failure in the notification to the graduate program director. Within two weeks of notification of the grade on the master's examination, students receive a detailed evaluation in writing from the MACJ program director.

Students who fail a written exam, or any part thereof, may request a re-reading from the faculty member(s) evaluating the examination. This request is to be submitted to the director of the graduate program in criminal justice within 20 days of the student receiving the detailed written evaluation.

Under the conditional pass, students re-write the part(s) in question on campus. The students are permitted to bring their original response with them to the exam.

### **Repeats of Examinations: Written Comprehensive**

Only one repeat for each area is permitted. Failure on a repeat examination is a permanent failure for that area.

### **Administration of Comprehensive Examination**

The administration of examinations is the responsibility of the director of the graduate program in criminal justice. Exams are administered during the fall and spring semesters.

## SPECIALIZATION IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Students whose professional and career goals would be enhanced by a concentration in public administration may tailor their degree to include a series of courses from Widener's MPA program. Students wishing to pursue this option should consult with the graduate criminal justice director.

An MPA concentration requires students to take the following courses (12 credits) as part of the graduate criminal justice elective portion of the curriculum. The specialization is designed to fit within the credit requirements of the "Comprehensive Examination" option (30 credits).

Select two of the following four courses:

- PA 503 Public Policy in the American Federal System
- PA 504 Purposeful Leadership
- PA 506 Budgeting & Human Resource Management
- PA 508 Ethical & Legal Environment of Public Service

Select two additional PA electives (see the MPA catalog at [widener.edu/catalogs](http://widener.edu/catalogs)).

## DUAL PsyD/MA IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM—Offered in Conjunction with The Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology

For those students who wish to acquire extensive education and training in clinical psychology and criminal justice studies, Widener offers a unique dual degree option leading to the PsyD/MA in Criminal Justice. Designed to fit within the five-year time frame of the PsyD curriculum, this option trains clinical professionals for a myriad of positions in the expanding fields of law enforcement, correctional diagnosis, treatment and supervision, and other psycho-legal subfields of criminal justice.

Students wishing to pursue the dual PsyD/MA must apply to and be accepted into each program separately.

## CURRICULUM

In addition to fulfilling all requirements for the PsyD, dual degree students are required to take the following criminal justice courses to earn the MA degree:

1. Core Requirements (9 credits):
  - CJ 501, Nature of Crime & Delinquency
  - CJ 504, Seminar in Law & Criminal Justice
  - CJ 505, Organizational Behavior in Criminal Justice
2. Graduate CJ Electives (15 credits):
  - Five additional graduate criminal justice electives must be taken to complete the degree.
3. Doctoral Dissertation:
  - Dual degree students are required to select a dissertation topic with relevance to the field of criminal justice and have a member of the criminal justice faculty serve on the dissertation committee.

## GRADUATE SPECIALIZATION IN WHITE COLLAR CRIME—Offered in Conjunction with Widener University's School of Business Administration, Department of Accounting, Taxation, and Business Law

For students who wish to develop expertise in the areas of fraud analysis and "forensic" accounting, there is the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice with a specialization in white collar crime. Designed to fit within the credit requirements of the "Comprehensive Examination" option (30 credits), this program prepares professionals for careers in local and federal law enforcement, as well as in investigative units of private corporations and industry.

## CURRICULUM

Once accepted into the graduate criminal justice program, students wishing to pursue the white collar crime specialization option would take the following courses:

1. Core Requirements (18 credits):
  - CJ 501, Nature of Crime & Delinquency
  - CJ 504, Seminar in Law & Criminal Justice
  - CJ 505, Organizational Behavior in Criminal Justice
  - CJ 509, Research Methods & Quantitative Applications in Criminal Justice
  - CJ Elective
  - CJ Elective
2. Specialization Requirements (12 credits):
  - CJ 603, White Collar Crime
  - Maximum of 9 credits from the following SBA courses:*
    - BUS 520 or 528, Accounting & Legal Aspects of Business (BUS 528 is the self-study version of BUS 520)
    - ACCT 607,\* Internal Auditing & Assurance Services (prerequisite is BUS 520 or 528)
    - ACCT 630,\* Accounting Information Systems (prerequisite is BUS 520 or 528)
    - ACCT 635,\* Information Technology Auditing (prerequisite is ACCT 630)
    - ACCT 655,\* Fraud Detection: Investigation & Prevention (prerequisite is BUS 520 or 528)
    - BLAW 630,\* Legal Issues Concerning Information Technology (prerequisite is BLAW 150, BLAW 260, or permission of the department head of accounting, taxation and business law\*\*)
    - MIS 660, Computer Security/Controls (prerequisite is MIS 290 or equivalent or ACCT 630)

*\*Students may substitute a different graduate ACCT, TAX, or BLAW course with approval of the department head of accounting, taxation, and business law.*

*\*\*It is expected that most, if not all, of the CJ students will have previously completed some legal-related course work.*

The master's degree will be conferred once all course work is completed and the comprehensive examinations have been passed. For more information on specialization requirements, consult the *School of Business Administration Graduate Catalog*.

## ADVISEMENT

The graduate program director serves as the academic advisor to MACJ students. Upon admission to the program, students should meet with the director for academic advisement. The director and student should create a plan of study that fulfills departmental requirements and provides comprehensive professional (academic) training. This plan of study should take account of students' backgrounds and available departmental resources and be reviewed periodically.

Final responsibility for course selection and the meeting of department requirements resides with the student.

## QUALITY OF GRADUATE WORK

Consistent with university regulations, a minimum of a "B" average is required for certification of readiness to take graduate examinations or to begin the thesis process and for conferral of a graduate degree. Students should consult the College of Arts & Sciences policies on student status and dismissal and readmission for more information regarding graduate standing.

## **COURSES**

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### **CORE**

#### **CJ 501 NATURE OF CRIME AND DELINQUENCY**

This course provides an overview of the nature and scope of delinquency and crime through a comprehensive survey of criminological theory using original sources. Major emphasis is given to the evaluation of existing theory and its relationship to criminal justice policy and practice. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 504 SEMINAR IN LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

This course provides an overview of the criminal law and its relation to the criminal justice system. Employs theoretical, Common Law, statutory, and case law materials to the study of the legal elements of a crime, excuse and justification, and sentencing and punishment. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 505 ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

This course analyzes the structures, functions, and operations of the various criminal justice agencies, including the police, the court, and corrections (jail, probation, prison, and parole) within the overall context of the criminal justice system. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 509 RESEARCH METHODS AND QUANTITATIVE APPLICATIONS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

This graduate seminar teaches students to apply the scientific method to the study of crime and criminal justice issues. Topics include the relationship between theory, hypotheses, and empirical research; various methodological designs, including survey research; quasi-experimental and qualitative methods; and ethical issues that govern the study of crime and justice. Students also learn techniques to manage and analyze quantitative data. 3 semester hours

### **ELECTIVES**

#### **CJ 506 SEMINAR IN PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

This course focuses on the planning, development, and evaluation of programs in criminal justice. Fundamentals in these three areas are reviewed and then applied to issues and problems in the field. A comprehensive policy planning proposal is developed to deal with a carefully defined criminal justice problem or need. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 511 ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE APPLICATIONS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

This course employs both methodological and analytical skills in the examination of issues related to criminal justice. Students learn techniques of management of quantitative data and explore more advanced methods of analysis aimed at the testing of hypotheses and the answering of research questions. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 601 SENTENCING PRACTICES AND PHILOSOPHY**

This seminar focuses on the philosophical and practical issues involved in the sentencing of convicted offenders. Students are expected to learn and critically analyze those objectives that guide the process, as well as those factors and reforms that shape this practice among judges. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 602 WOMEN AND THE LAW**

This course focuses on the phenomenon of women and crime and the response of the system to this social problem. Through an application of feminist analysis, students study the theoretical and system-related issues that have shaped our understanding of

women and the law. The impact of gender stereotypes and patriarchal values is also studied as an explanation of the system's limited effectiveness in dealing with gendered justice and women in the legal system. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 603 WHITE COLLAR CRIME**

This seminar focuses on forms of criminal deviance that are committed by individuals in their official capacities in the work place. Various forms of such deviance are discussed, as are the theoretical perspectives proposed to explain them, beginning with the seminal work of Edwin Sutherland and moving to the more current focus on social opportunity and the "pressure" for success. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 604 SEMINAR IN POLICE PRACTICES AND PROBLEMS**

This "issues" oriented seminar focuses on those issues of controversy affecting the police function in society. Students are expected to develop an "academic" understanding of these issues and propose meaningful solutions to improve the quality of law enforcement. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 605 SEMINAR IN CORRECTIONAL ISSUES AND CONTROVERSIES**

This course provides the student with the opportunity for an in-depth focus on the various issues that impact upon our correctional system and its effectiveness. Students are encouraged to consider all relevant factors relating to such issues, including community demands for crime control and the political pressures such demands generate. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 606 STRATIFICATION AND "JUSTICE"**

This seminar focuses on the issues of race, class, and gender and the extent to which these factors serve to differentiate the "quality" of criminal justice an individual receives. Students are expected to critically evaluate system functioning along these lines. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 607 CRITICAL ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

This thematic seminar addresses various subjects of critical importance to the nature and function of the criminal justice system. Offered periodically, the content of the course may change each time it is scheduled. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 608 ORGANIZED CRIME**

This graduate seminar addresses that branch of criminality commonly known as "organized crime." Discussions focus on a more precise understanding of the term itself, as well as on the various theoretical perspectives that have evolved to explain it. Case studies of notorious criminals will be used to illustrate the topics and issues involved. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 609 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

This graduate seminar addresses the nature of domestic violence and the criminal justice system's response to it. Discussions focus on the legal response, theoretical perspectives and explanations, and the experiences of victims. 3 semester hours

#### **CJ 610 ETHICS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

This seminar addresses various aspects and approaches to the practice and study of ethics in the criminal justice system. Topics include philosophical approaches to crime and punishment, as well as the responsibilities, moral quandaries, and ethical dilemmas faced by those involved in the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, legal professionals, and correctional officers. 3 semester hours

**CJ 611 THE DEATH PENALTY**

This course is designed as a comprehensive study of the practice of capital punishment in America. Historical, legal, and criminological sources are used to explore one of the most controversial issues facing criminal justice in the past as well as today. While the focus of the course is on the practice of capital punishment in America, the death penalty in other countries is also discussed. The course examines key U.S. Supreme Court decisions regarding capital punishment, and also highlights the complex interplay of legal, moral, and financial issues at the heart of the public debate on this punishment practice. No prerequisites. No prerequisites. 3 semester hours

**CJ 612 JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY**

This course is designed as a comprehensive examination of juvenile justice and delinquency in the United States. The course focuses on causes of juvenile delinquency and philosophies at work in the juvenile justice system. The course explores the response of law enforcement, courts, and the correctional system to juvenile offenders. Topics include gangs, violent offenders, drug offenses, pre-trial diversion programs, and probation or community-based sanctions for juvenile offenders. No prerequisites. 3 semester hours

**CJ 613 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE:  
THEORY AND PRACTICE**

This course explores the model of restorative justice, a recent movement that differs from the traditional criminal justice model. In recent years there has been a movement towards greater attention by the criminal justice system to include victims and members of the community. Unlike a traditional criminal justice approach, which has the goal to punish offenders, the restorative justice approach strives to repair the harm done to victims and encourages victims and community members to have a voice in the justice process. With restorative justice, offenders are held accountable for their actions and the goal is to restore them to law-abiding members of the community. No prerequisites. 3 semester hours

**CJ 614 CYBERCRIME**

The ever-growing advances of technology have resulted in the increase in the commission of cybercrimes, or crimes that involve a computer, any computer technology, or the Internet. This course reviews the history of cyber crime, types of cyber crime, laws that pertain to cyber crime, and efforts by state and U.S. federal law enforcement to combat cyber crime. The role of and investigations by computer forensic experts are also explored. No prerequisites. 3 semester hours

**CJ 615 GANGS IN AMERICA**

This course covers important issues surrounding the study of gangs in America at a graduate level. In particular, the class discusses the definition of "gangs," the nature and extent of the gang problem in the United States, theoretical explanations for gang activity, and how to handle gang issues from a policy perspective. The main goals of this course are to help students (1) gain an understanding of gang activity in the United States, and (2) think critically about ways to address this problem. Students who took CJ 255 as undergraduates at Widener University may not take this course. Graduate elective. Enrollment as graduate student required. No prerequisites. 3 semester hours

**CJ 616- DRUGS AND CRIME**

This course critically examines the use of and response to drugs in America, including the history of drugs, why people use

drugs, and the extent of substance abuse. Students learn and discuss how drug use is defined as illegal, and the legal, social, and media responses to drugs use and abuse. Criminal justice issues such as drug trafficking and the U.S. drug market, the connection between drugs and crime, and law enforcement efforts related to drugs are addressed. No prerequisites. 3 semester hours

**CJ 617 DOMESTIC TERRORISM**

This course provides a comprehensive study of domestic terrorism in the United States, past, present and future. Lectures, presentations, discussions, and readings enable students to think critically about the factors that cause individuals to join domestic terrorism groups and how the federal government and law enforcement has confronted this ongoing threat. Lastly, the course explores the future of domestic terrorism groups in America. No prerequisites. 3 semester hours

**CJ 618 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

This course provides an understanding of community-based punishments (probation and parole) in the U.S. criminal justice system. There is also a focus on pre-trial diversion programs. Particular attention is paid to the current social context of community corrections, challenges surrounding community corrections, and the effectiveness of community supervision. No prerequisites. 3 semester hours

**CJ 688 SPECIAL TOPICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

This seminar focuses on selected issues and problems confronting criminal justice. 3 semester hours

**CJ 695 INDEPENDENT STUDY**

This is an opportunity for an individual student to negotiate a program of self-initiated study with a faculty member of his/her choosing. No more than two independent study courses with two different instructors may be counted for degree credit. 3-6 semester hours

**CJ 696 PRACTICUM**

Students gain valuable training and work experience by working one hundred hours in a criminal justice department or agency. Students are responsible for finding a practicum placement, and obtain approval from the MCJ director prior to enrollment. Students are required to become familiar with the scholarly literature relevant to their placement, to submit bi-weekly journal entries to the MCJ program director or designated faculty member, and to write a research paper integrating the research and fieldwork aspects of the practicum. Only open to MCJ students who have completed 12 credits and only one practicum permitted. Students cannot count current paid employment for practicum credit. 3 semester hours

**CJ 697 THESIS I**

Faculty-directed thesis research. A research proposal must be approved by the supervising faculty member at the completion of the course. In order to begin the thesis, students must have completed all core required courses and can have no more than 6 credits of electives remaining. 3 semester hours

**CJ 698 THESIS II**

Faculty-directed thesis research. To enroll in CJ 698, CJ 697 must be completed and a thesis proposal must already have been submitted and approved by a faculty advisor. Prerequisite CJ 697. 3 semester hours

**CJ 699 MASTER'S THESIS**

Faculty-directed thesis research. 6 semester hours

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE FACULTY**

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### **Nancy B. Blank**

*Associate Professor*

BA, Univ. of Pennsylvania; MA, Columbia Univ.; PhD, Rutgers Univ.

*(gender & crime, community-based intervention, women's studies)*

### **William E. Harver**

*Associate Professor*

BS, MS, Virginia Commonwealth Univ.; PhD, Univ. of Delaware

*(law enforcement, criminal justice administration, corrections)*

### **Shana L. Maier**

*Associate Professor & Director*

*of the Graduate Program in Criminal Justice*

BS, MS, St. Joseph's Univ.; PhD, Univ. of Delaware

*(women & criminal justice, victimology, domestic violence)*

### **Sarah C. Nicksa**

*Assistant Professor*

BA, College of Charleston; MA, PhD, Northeastern Univ.

*(sexual assault, interpersonal violence, domestic terrorism)*

### **Lauren O. Shermer**

*Associate Professor*

BS, College of New Jersey.; MA, PhD, Univ. of Maryland

*(research methods, criminology, gangs)*

## **ADJUNCT FACULTY**

### **Donald Haldeman**

*Adjunct Professor*

BA, West Chester Univ.; MA, Shippensburg Univ.; JD, Widener Univ.

### **Angela Hamilton**

*Adjunct Professor*

BA, Temple Univ.; MS, St. Joseph's Univ.

### **James F. Mattera, Esq.**

*Adjunct Professor*

BS, Fordham Univ.; JD, Widener Univ.

### **Thomas Omlor**

*Adjunct Professor*

BA, West Chester Univ.; MS, St. Joseph's Univ.

### **Phillip Pisani**

*Adjunct Professor*

BA, Widener Univ.; MS, West Chester Univ. of Pennsylvania

### **Sam Smemo**

*Adjunct Professor*

BA, Florida State Univ.; MS, Long Island Univ.